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**TESTIMONY TO CITY COUNCIL
Executive Matters Committee
Honolulu City Council**

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Testimony on CD 2, TOD Bill 10: Relating to Transit Oriented Development

**Wednesday, July 30, 2008
1:00 p.m.**

**Jackie Boland
Associate State Director, Community Outreach
AARP Hawaii**

AARP Hawaii, represents a state-wide membership of 156,000 adults over the age of 50, and has a strong history of engaging our membership in state and community issues. We stand on our previous testimony supporting transit oriented development and commenting on CD1 and CD2 and we support the changes submitted by the administration. However, we would like to offer the following further comments regarding a) the planning time line for community involvement and b) the position of this in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu.

Planning Timeline for Community Involvement:

We strongly support a community based planning process that is inclusive and addresses the unique characteristics, resources, and needs of the surrounding community of each transit station and we agree that there is greater chance for successful public support if the communities can be involved in early planning and design stages of the development and redevelopment projects that will reflect their needs and priorities.

However, we are concerned that the City Council has seen fit to put in an artificial deadline of January 1, 2011 for establishing a neighborhood plan, with no distinction made about establishing plans with communities that will be built first or in which redevelopment is imminent.

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While we favor an expedited timeline, we caution the City Council about the inclusion of this deadline. Our experience has shown us that it is important to engage in a public involvement process that is deliberate, timely, and do-able. We do not believe that the Department of Planning and Permitting has adequate resources to do this in every community along the transit line, by 2011 and we are concerned that this date would result in some neighborhoods being shut out of the planning process or in a very cursory community involvement process that would not result in the kind of public engagement that is needed.

We believe that the public would be best served by a strategic use of DPP resources that prioritizes community planning based on the building time line and those communities in which redevelopment is imminent. We recommend that a deadline be set for each community from the start of their planning process (i.e., two years) and that each community planning process begin within a set number of years of their proposed build out.

Land Use:

We would like to note that Transit Oriented Development, by its very nature, is about land use. For ease in administering this process, we would like to see the ordinance moved to the land use section rather than the public transit section of Revised Ordinances of Honolulu.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important work.